A national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

NREL National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Innovation for Our Energy Future

Join us the second Thursday of every month for a series of "brown bag" seminars, sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Each seminar is held at NREL's Washington office with a videoconference link to Golden, Colorado. Topics focus on new and innovative renewable energy and energy analysis strategies, models, and technologies.

Climate Forecasts for the Energy Industry: Case Examples and Lessons Learned

An analytical seminar presented by DOE and NREL's Energy Analysis Office (EAO)

David Pierce, Programmer/Analyst
Climate Research Division, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Thursday, October 13, 2005
Noon – 1 p.m. (in Washington, D.C. - bring your lunch)
10 – 11 a.m. (videoconference in Golden, Colo.)

David Pierce

The energy industry uses weather forecasts extensively in their operations, but climate forecasts are rarely used. Nevertheless, climate variability is vital to the energy industry, as it affects both supply (via hydropower resources) and demand (of electricity for air conditioning or natural gas for heating). This presentation by David Pierce will show results from the California Energy Project, a one-year National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-funded effort to quantify the economic benefit of climate forecasts to relevant energy problems. To evaluate the potential economic benefit of climate forecasts, Pierce's organization partnered with energy-industry stakeholders to develop specific climate forecasts for their needs. Pierce will discuss how these forecasts work, and their economic value as estimated by the stakeholders. He will demonstrate the potential benefit of incorporating climate information into energy-industry decisions and also talk about how both energy companies and climate forecasters will have to modify their current practices before this becomes routine.

David Pierce received his B.A. in physics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, then worked for several years in the memory-products division of Intel Corporation before going to graduate school at the University of Washington. He received an M.S. in physical oceanography in 1989, followed by a Ph.D. in 1993. After that, he joined the staff in the Climate Research Division of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Pierce constructed and runs the operational El Nino prediction model at Scripps. His other research interests include multi-decadal thermohaline variability, large-scale numerical modeling of the ocean and atmosphere, understanding climate variability in the North Pacific ocean, global climate change, and the application of climate research to water and energy issues in the western United States.

Golden, Colo., information

1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado
Building 15, Conference Room 375

Please contact Lynne Fenn at lynne_fenn@nrel.gov or 303-384-7439

Washington, D.C., information

901 D Street SW (also the Aerospace Building, 370 L'Enfant Promenade), adjacent to the Forrestal Building

Please contact Wanda Addison, of Midwest Research Institute (MRI), at wanda_addison@nrel.gov or 202-646-5278

If you are interested in participating in the seminar via conference call, please contact Wanda Addison, of MRI, at **wanda_addison@nrel.gov** or **202-646-5278** for instructions.

EAO Energy Analysis Office
Understanding Energy Issues

For more information on NREL analysis, please visit the Web site at
http://www.nrel.gov/analysis